

46 THE BATTLE OF JUTLAND BANK

himself in close proximity to the main fleet, and before he could withdraw his ships they were caught under a heavy fire and disabled. It is not known when *Black Prince*¹ (Captain Thomas P. Bonham), of the same squadron, was sunk, but a wireless signal was received from her between 8 and 9 p.m.

The First Battle Squadron became engaged during deployment, the Vice-Admiral opening fire at 6.17 p.m. on a battleship of the *Kaiser*² class. The other Battle Squadrons, which had previously been firing at an enemy light cruiser, opened fire at 6.30 p.m. on battleships of the *Koenig* class.³

At 6.6 p.m. the Rear-Admiral Commanding Fifth Battle Squadron, then in company with the battle-cruisers, had sighted the starboard wing-division of the battle-fleet⁴ on the port bow of *Barham*,⁵ and the first intention of Rear-Admiral Evan-Thomas was to form ahead of the remainder of the battle-fleet, but on realizing the direction of deployment he was compelled to form astern, a manœuvre which was well executed by the squadron under a heavy fire from the enemy battle-fleet.⁶

¹ Armoured cruiser, 13,550 tons, 480 ft. long, 23 knots, 9.2-inch and lesser armament, of Arbutnot's Squadron.

² Battleship, 24,700 tons, 20½ knots, 12-inch and lesser armament.

³ Battleship, 25,800 tons, 20½ knots, 12-inch (? 14-inch) and lesser armament.

⁴ See Map II, 6 p.m.

⁵ Battleship, 27,500 tons, 25 knots, 15-inch and lesser armament.

⁶ On first sighting the Battle Fleet on his port (left) bow, Rear-Admiral Evan-Thomas assumed that it would continue its then course, and by altering his own to starboard proposed to place his squadron ahead of it. In fact, the Battle Fleet altered course to eastward (see Map II, 6 p.m.) and compelled Evan-Thomas to fall in astern, so that soon after 7 o'clock Beatty's squadrons were